
From: Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 1:38 PM
To: Grossman, John (EPS)
Subject: FW: Notary Public rules

John,
Thanks for touring the laboratory yesterday and listening to some of our concerns related to administrative and legislative issues that occupy valuable analyst time. Below I have forwarded an email from Cam Stevenson, the supervisor in the Amherst laboratory, regarding the executive order requiring documentation of each notary transaction. I am forwarding this email in the interest of saving time, since Cam has summarized the issue well. However, if you need a more formal request, I am happy to write that up and send it along.

We will prepare a summary of the desired legislative changes shortly.

Thanks for your help,
Julie Nassif

From: Stevenson, Allan (DPH)
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 1:22 PM
To: Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Cc: Salemi, Charles (DPH); Hanchett, James (DPH); Salem, Sharon (DPH)
Subject: Notary Public rules

Julie,

I prepared the following to address one of the issues that we discussed yesterday.

The Mass. Dept. of Public Health, Mass. State Police, and Worcester County Drug Analysis Laboratories prepare a very high volume of analysis certificates which must be notarized. Mass. DPH alone produces over 40,000 certificates per year. Gov. Romney's Revised Executive Order No. 455 addresses the responsibilities of a Notary Public and includes the requirement of keeping a notary journal which must include the following:

- (1) the date and time of the notarial act, proceeding, or transaction;
- (2) the type of notarial act;
- (3) the type, title, or a description of the document, transaction, or proceeding.
- (4) the signature, printed name, and address of each principal and witness;
- (5) description of the satisfactory evidence of identity of each person.

Transcribing this information into a notary journal takes a substantial amount of time away from the task of analyzing drugs (analysts in the DPH Lab are also Notaries). Eliminating the requirement for keeping notary journals for drug certificates would save many hours of personnel time. The certificate itself includes most of the information that must be copied into the journal, and any information not included on the certificate could be obtained from department records.

There are examples of other groups getting exemptions from all or part of this executive order (see the links below), and in this case there is virtually no incentive for abuse of notary responsibilities.

Link # 1, the Executive Order No. 455, Section 1, paragraph (d) exempts the National Guard from the provisions of this order, as stated below.

(d) The provisions of this Executive Order shall not apply to the Massachusetts National Guard or other Reserve Component Commands when conducting mobilization exercises and Soldier Readiness Processing. The attorney's notary journal exemption is described in Section 11, paragraph (f).

Link # 2 is an article in Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly that points out the Massachusetts attorneys are exempted from the requirement of keeping notary journals.

Link # 1 <http://www.masslaw.com/signup/Treasury.cfm?page=ma/051904a.htm>

Link # 2 <http://www.masslaw.com/ma20040519break.cfm>

Elimination of the need to transcribe and keep notary records of drug certificates in a separate journal would save many hours of time with no additional risk of the abuse that the Executive Order is addressing.

Cam

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